

State News for NSPE Members

Catholic University to Open DC's Largest Solar Array

In an attempt to create more clean energy, Catholic University will open the largest solar array in DC this March, [NBC Washington reports](#).

It's a groundbreaking local project. We see solar panels all the time, these days -- but rarely do we see enough to fill 19 football fields. "I think we should all be interested in taking care of the planet, don't you think?" said Peter Kilpatrick, president of Catholic University. The 25-acre solar array is the largest in the District. Part of the energy it generates will power the University, and the rest will be sold back to DC. All of the energy is aimed at cutting down greenhouse gas emissions.

The wood from the trees that had to be cut down to make room for the solar array will be turned into benches, which will be donated to local schools and parks. "I'm very proud of the way that we've stepped up to the clean energy challenge of DC," Kilpatrick said. The university says that adding the solar panel array will have the same benefit to the environment that removing 1,500 cars from the roads would. It's also the equivalent of cancelling out carbon dioxide emissions from around 800,000 gallons of gas. [Read more](#).

DC Area Development Projects to Watch in 2024

Developers are poised to make big strides on major projects around Washington this year. Why it matters: DC has seen \$81.6 billion of new real estate development since 2000, *Washington Business Journal* reported last year. That means it can be difficult to keep up with what's being planned or built where — and, perhaps most importantly, when you can expect your commute to stop being disrupted by construction. [Read the full Axios DC report](#).

By 2035, All New Cars in DC Have to Be Zero-Emission

[According to DCist](#), by the year 2035 every new car, SUV, or pickup registered in the DC region — including the District, Maryland, and Virginia — will have to be a clean, zero-emission vehicle.

The District finalized regulations adopting this policy late last month, following its two neighboring states. Now, a total of 13 states, plus DC, have signed on to these tougher new vehicle emissions standards, first adopted by California in November 2022.

Under the regulations, several different types of vehicles will count as zero emission. This includes fully electric cars, known as battery electric vehicles (BEVs), as well as plug in hybrids. Gas-powered cars will still be on the road well past 2035 — a majority of car buyers purchase used cars, which are not affected by the emissions standards. The regulations will help slash greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, and air pollution that lead to health problems like asthma.

“Air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions don’t know where state borders start or end, so we really do need a regional approach,” says Mike Litt, with the DC Chapter of the Sierra Club. [Read more](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Help Guide the Future of NICET’s SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Take the Survey

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional Award : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#).

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National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314